MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JANUARY 1983

Israel

Warning to Syria on Missiles -- The Syrians are building two bases for SAM-5 batteries deep inside their territory, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. Noting that the SAM-5 has thus far never been deployed outside the Soviet Union, IDF radio said the missile's range would cover most of Lebanese airspace as well as the Galilee panhandle and the northern Golan Heights.

Israel's disclosure of these Syrian preparations for installing the missiles is intended to demonstrate to the Syrians that Israel knows about their preparations and is following them closely, Jerusalem radio subsequently reported. The announcement may be viewed as a warning that if the missiles serve offensive purposes or are used to defend offensive acts, Israel has already proved "it knows how to solve problems of this sort," the radio added. According to Jerusalem television, the SAM-5 is, in any case, incapable of intercepting fighter planes and low-flying planes, since it was developed to hit high-flying bombers. Israeli political circles cited by IDF radio said the supply of the new missiles should be interpreted as a Soviet signal to the United States that the Soviet Union should be taken into consideration in the Middle East and that Syria is still a base for Soviet arms and experts.

IDF Conduct in West Bank -- Testifying at the trial of IDF personnel accused of mistreating civilians in "Judaea and Samaria," an IDF commander alleged that IDF directives on how to treat the population included torture and hitting, Jerusalem radio reported.

Shamir on Iraqi Policy -- Responding to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's recently publicized remarks recognizing Israel's need for security, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that "no change" had occurred in Iraq's basic stance toward Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. The reports about Saddam Husayn's statement stem only from Iraq's desire to tailor a positive image in the United States, Shamir contended.

Lebanon

Tripoli Fighting -- Factional clashes continued in Tripoli, paralyzing movement and causing great devastation in the city, Beirut radio reported. The violence reached a peak in the evening, when fierce street battles raged alongside indiscriminate rocket and artillery fire, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio cited preliminary casualty estimates of 24 people killed and more than 60 others wounded. Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami met in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who reiterated Syria's determination to extend all possible aid to Tripoli in confronting and defeating "the conspiracy and those hatching it," Damascus radio reported.

Diplomatic Activity -- After meeting with Morris Draper, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan disclosed in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that he had reminded the U.S. side of its commitment to the withdrawal of foreign forces and had also conveyed "certain stands" for Draper to communicate to the U.S. Government. He said Lebanon demands that the U.S. stand be more decisive and effective, adding that if U.S. policy had been decisive at the beginning of the Israeli invasion "we wouldn't have reached this situation."

Morris Draper arrived in Israel on 5 January for talks with the prime minister and foreign minister, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio noted that Draper would inform them of Lebanon's proposals for overcoming obstacles to formulating an agenda for the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations.

PLO Withdrawal Conditions -- Citing "informed sources," the Voice of Lebanon reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said the PLO will withdraw its forces from Al-Biqa' and the north under two conditions: First, Lebanon must agree to guarantee that no Palestinian civilian need "submit" to the public security or the Lebanese Army; second, Lebanon should mediate to secure the release of Palestinians detained by Israel in Al-Ansar camp.

IDF Casualties -- Two IDF soldiers were wounded when their vehicle hit an explosive charge south of Beirut, IDF radio reported on 5 January. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the two men were killed. Earlier, an Israeli truck driver was kidnapped south of Ad-Damur, Jerusalem radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Meetings -- A joint meeting of the seven-member Fes summit committee and the Jerusalem Committee will be held in Marrakech on 20 January to hear the results of the Fes committee's recent tour and to discuss the means of facilitating the Fes summit resolutions, SPA reported. The meeting will be chaired by Morocco's King Hassan II, Jordan's King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat, who will also hold separate closed meetings to discuss the Middle East situation, SPA revealed.

Noting that the Jordanian monarch will soon be contacting Arab leaders to brief them on the U.S. Middle East stand, PLO Executive Committee member Khalid al-Hasan hinted that an Arab summit may be held to review the U.S. policy and to authorize King Husayn to continue talks with the U.S. Administration, SPA reported.

Syria and the PDRY have accepted Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's invitation to attend a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front meeting in Tripoli, JANA reported. Algeria and the PLO have not yet replied to the invitation, JANA noted.

UK Relations -- Following the cancellation of British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Francis Pym's visit to Saudi Arabia, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat revealed the foreign ministers of the Fes summit's member-countries will discuss the Arab stand toward Britain "in detail" during their upcoming meeting in Morocco, KUNA reported. An editorial in the Kuwaiti daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, cited by KUNA, praised Saudi Arabia's refusal to receive Pym and urged all Arabs to do likewise.

'Arafat to Moscow -- Yasir 'Arafat will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in the second half of January at the invitation of CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov, QNA reported, citing an official Palestinian source.

Egypt

'Ali Interview -- Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that Egypt's special relationship with the United States must not hinder the establishment of normal relations with the Soviet Union based on noninterference in internal affairs and on commercial and economic cooperation, MENA reported, citing an interview with the Lebanese magazine AS-SAYYAD. The foreign minister cautioned that while Egypt and the Soviet Union may decide to exchange ambassadors some time in the future, such a decision would not mean a change in Egypt's strategic political line, MENA added.

Embassy Document -- A document the Egyptian Embassy in Washington has recently been distributing among U.S. congressmen sharply criticizes Israel's "repeated" breaches of the Camp David agreement and rejects Israel's charges of Egyptian violations as "completely unfounded," according to the Tel Aviv daily MA'ARIV. Israeli diplomats denied distributing a similar document, but admitted that Israel's contentions against the Egyptian Government are voiced when congressmen are briefed on the Middle East, the paper added.

Iran-Iraq War

Naval Attack -- Iraqi naval units destroyed two Iranian "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area on 4 January, a military communique transmitted by INA reported.

'Aziz in France -- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated that defense issues will play a major role in his current 5-day visit to France, according to AFP. Iraq is reportedly seeking financing for additional arms purchases, AFP noted.

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SOVIET WARPLANES BOMB VILLAGE AFTER UPRISING

BK041606 Hong Kong AFP in English 1558 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 4 (AFP) -- In massive bombing raids, Soviet warplanes have totally destroyed Nader Shah Kowt in eastern Paktia Province after a troop uprising in which Afghan soldiers killed 52 army officers, rebel sources said.

The soldiers last Thursday killed pro-communist officers and burnt the ammunition depot, then about 100 of them fled the outpost near the Pakistani border town of Miram Shah, the sources said. About a dozen of them already reached Miram Shah, they said. One Afghan soldier also died in the clash and another was wounded.

Soon after the incident, Soviet plans totally demolished Nader Shah Kowt, a village of 50 to 60 houses, in three consecutive days of bombing, they said. The military post there is 10 km from Khost, the main provincial town in Paktia. Most of the civilian population had fled the area after the Soviet invasion 3 years ago.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY COMMANDS HOLD MEETING

LD041520 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Officers, men, and staff of the Transport Brigade Command and the [word indistinct] Command of the Department of Logistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs today held a grand meeting at the headquarters of the department in Khayr Khana (Mena).

At the gathering, the head of political affairs in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mohammed Faruq, spoke about the shameless interferences of the United States and of the traitor Reagan. He also highlighted more than ever before the revolutionary and patriotic duties of PDPA members.

At the meeting, the membership cards of the full members of the PDPA and the primary party organizations of the above commands were distributed.

STUDENTS STAGE PROTEST AGAINST PAKISTAN

LD041040 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan 3, BAKHTAR -- A great demonstration was held by a big group of university students on Torkham border post on the other side of the border on December 28.

The demonstrators warmly welcomed the April Revolution and the principled policy of the party and state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and strongly condemned the militarist actions of Pakistan against the people and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

They enthusiastically chanted slogans: "Victorious be the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan", "Long live Babrak Karmal", and "We would defend the April Revolution in the interest of the people of our brother country revolutionary Afghanistan." The students expressed their intense wrath and indignation against Ziaul Haq, the military ruler of Pakistan. The protesting students were subjected to threats by Pakistani soldiers.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' REPORTED 'CRUSHED'

LD020813 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] Jan 1 BAKHTAR -- A group of counterrevolutionaries was crushed and six of them with their ring leader (Qurban Mohammad) were captured by the security forces of (?Badakhshan) Province. Several units of arms and a quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

In the course of another operation several bands of counterrevolutionaries were crushed and a number of them with their ringleader (Turyalai) were captured by the security forces of Nangarhar Province in Darrah-ye Pech, (Has Kunar), Nur Gal, (Badet), (Dara Mazkr), Darrah-ye Nur, (Szsorkh Rod) areas. Arms and ammunitions were recovered from them.

3 January Report

LD030620 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan 2 BAKHTAR -- A number of counterrevolutionary elements with their ringleaders (Abdul Rahmani), (Hidayatullah) and (Khalilurrahman) was crushed by officers and soldiers of the border forces in the (Nawan) District, Ghazni Province recently. A quantity of weapons and ammunition were recovered from them.

A band of counterrevolutionaries with their ringleader, (Hamidullah), was crushed recently and some of them captured by military forces in the (Keshin) Subdistrict, Badakhshan Province. A considerable amount of various weapons and bullets were recovered from them.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PARDONS AUSTRIAN, EGYPTIAN

LD301532 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] The Revolutionary Council Presidium recently pardoned (Albert Skala), citizen of Austria, and (Ziauddin), citizen of Egypt, who were arrested on charges of espionage.

As our dear compatriots are aware, (Albert Skala), citizen of Austria, and (Ziauddin), citizen of Egypt, were captured and arrested by the DRA security forces for committing a series of crimes. (Albert Skaka) was sentenced by the DRA special revolutionary court to 8 years imprisonment for committing the crime of espionage against the DRA; and (Ziauddin), Egyptian citizen, was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for espionage, sabotage, and subversive actions against the DRA.

In petitions submitted to the Revolutionary Council Presidium, they expressed repentence for their actions and crimes and asked for forgiveness. Similarly, (Albert Skala's) family and the Austrian authorities have asked for his forgiveness.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium recently pardoned these two due to the DRA's humanitarian policy. (Albert Skala) has been handed over to the Austrian Embassy and (Ziauddin) has been handed over to the office in charge of safeguarding the interests of Egypt in the Yugoslavian Embassy in Kabul, by the DRA authorities. These persons have been expelled from Afghanistan.

ERSHAD SIGNS ELECTORAL ROLLS ORDINANCE 30 DEC

BK311131 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Excerpt] The chief martial law administrator signed the electoral rolls ordinance 1982 in Dhaka yesterday. The ordinance comes into force with immediate effect. The preparation of electoral rolls begins next month. The ordinance was approved at a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Dhaka on Wednesday night with Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad in the chair. The ordinance provided for an arrangement on the basis of which elections to local bodies -- thana [police station], zila parishad [district council], and also national level can be held.

BORDER TALKS WITH INDIA CONCLUDE 30 DECEMBER

BK311051 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] The 2-day border talks between Bangladesh and India concluded in Chittagong yesterday in a cordial atmosphere. The Bangladesh side was led by Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Brigadier M. Matiur Rahman while the Indian side was headed by B.K. Sharma, inspector general of border security force, eastern zone, Shillong.

The first and second rounds of talks were held at Shillong and Calcutta. The two sides discussed measures to minimize border crime like smuggling, dacoity, and cattle lifting.

SAUDI ARMED FORCES DELEGATION ARRIVES 2 JAN

BK021055 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] A Saudi Arabian military good will delegation led by Chief of the General Staff of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces General Muhammad Salih al-Hamad arrived in Dhaka this afternoon. The 10-member delegation was received at the Zia International Airport by Commander in Chief Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad; Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M.A. Khan; Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud; the Saudi Arabian high commissioner to Bangladesh; and other high-ranking civil and military officials were also present at the airport.

BRIEFS

PROTOCOL WITH CSSR -- Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia will exchange goods worth $11 million under a barter protocol signed between the two countries in Dhaka today. The signing of the protocol was preceded by negotiations between the visiting Czechoslovak trade delegation and the Bangladesh side. [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Dec 82 BK]

'MODERATE TO BRISK' VOTING REPORTED IN STATES

BK050913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Moderate to brisk polling has been reported in the assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tripura to elect 576 representatives -- 3,285 aspirants, including over 1,600 independents, are in the fray. Three chief ministers -- Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, Gundu Rao, and Nripen Chakroborti -- and most of their Cabinet colleagues are making a bid to retain their seats. A number of party leaders are also contesting. A byelection in the Nellore parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh is also being held to elect its representative to the Lok Sabha.

In Andhra Pradesh polling, which began on a dull note, picked up momentum by noon. About 30 to 35 percent of voters are reported to have cast their votes so far. A team of our correspondents who went round several polling booths reports that in some centers in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, voting is very brisk. It is now going on at the rate of two to three voters a minute. Long queues of voters have been reported from different polling stations.

Polling all over Karnataka has been peaceful. According to information reaching Bangalore, more than 25 percent of votes have been polled by noon.

Polling in Tripura has started on a brisk note. The All India Radio correspondent who went round the state capital reports that great enthusiasm is seen among the voters.

MANIPUR OFFICIAL SAYS INSURGENCY 'ON THE WANE'

BK020927 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] A senior police official of Manipur has said that there are signs of normalcy returning to the state. Speaking in Imphal he said the insurgent activities are now on the wane. Recent drives against the insurgents have yielded results.

The official said that as a result of various measures, banking operations are now back to normal. Small industries, workshops, and business establishments are operating normally.

The Manipur Government has organized a homecoming fortnight to facilitate surrender by insurgents. Chief Minister Rishang Keishing announced in Imphal yesterday a 5 percent reservation in government jobs for those who come overground. He was speaking at a function where 12 underground extremists surrendered with their arms.

BARODA SITUATION IMPROVES; ARMY WITHDRAWS

BK030848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Army has been withdrawn from Baroda. Gujarat Home Minister Probodh Raval told the All India Radio Ahmedabad correspondent this morning that this step has been taken following improvement in the situation. He said the border security force and central reserve police force men along with the state reserve police will continue to be stationed in the city for some time.

LEADERS GREET CUBAN COUNTERPARTS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK011415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi have sent messages of greetings to President of the Republic of Cuba Dr Fidel Castro on the occasion of the national day of that country. In their messages, they have expressed a desire for mutual cooperation to the benefit of the people of the two countries and the world peace. External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has also sent a similar message to his counterpart in Cuba.

NONALIGNED SUMMIT TO ADDRESS 'ALL MAJOR ISSUES'

BK041256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] India is looking forward to the coming nonaligned summit in New Delhi with cautious optimism. Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Natwar Singh, who is the secretary general of the conference, told a news conference today that the summit will address itself to all the major issues facing the world. Among these, he mentioned the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq conflict, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and the overall problems of peace and disarmament. A great deal of time will also be devoted to the economic issues, cooperation among the developing countries, and the interrelationship between relaxation of tension and problems of development.

Official and foreign minister level meetings will start on 1 March, while the summit will be opening on 7 March. President Castro of Cuba will hand over the chairmanship of the movement to Mrs Gandhi on the opening day. The summit involves a great deal of preparation for the security agencies as about 75 countries are likely to be represented by the heads of state or government. In all, about 3,000 delegates are expected.

BRIEFS

ACCORD WITH IRAQ — The Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research entered into agreement with Iraqi council on 29 December for scientific research. The agreement provides for mutual cooperation in 1983-84 in the fields of ionospheric and cosmic rays research, electronics, pharmacology, and petroleum research. It also envisages setting up of pilot plants in Iraq, training Iraqi technicians in India, and also sending Indian expertise for short duration to Iraq. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 82 BK]

SPACE PROGRAM -- New Delhi, Dec. 31 (AFP) -- India intends to earmark 900 million U.S. dollars for its space programme in the next six years. The main project will be the production of a powerful rocket to launch Indian communications satellites into orbit, said G.K. Menon, an official of the Space Commission and Planning Agency, both of which are national organisations in charge of research and funding of space programmes. Following the failure of the Indian satellite Insat 1-A launched by a U.S. rocket this year, necessary modifications have been made to satellite Insat 1-B which is to be launched next year from Cape Canaveral in the United States. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 31 Dec 82 BK]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,173

LD041726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,173 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the battlefronts of the imposed war, Islam's mighty and resistant combatants continued their defensive operations. By opening defensive fire on every front and controlling the Iraqi forces, they inflicted losses and casualties on them. The selfless combatants of the Air Force and the airborne division of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, guarding the skies of our dear Islamic homeland throughout the operational zones and providing air cover and carrying out support operations, heroically assisted our combatants on the ground. We hereby inform our dear compatriots of the situation at the fronts:

During the past 24 hours on the Western fronts, from the Marivan border areas to the Ilam fronts, sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons' fire continued. However, we do not have accurate reports on the losses and casualties suffered by the enemy, except on the Bakhtaran fronts where as a result of the heavy fire opened by Islam's combatants a 120-mm mortar of the Saddamist forces together with a number of trenches and the servicemen in them were set ablaze and destroyed.

On the southern fronts, fighting continued with an exchange of fire, the intensity of this artillery duel being most severe on the Moharram operational front.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, Islam's combatants returned fire on the Saddamists' positions and fortifications on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud, destroying several light and heavy weapons emplacements of the Saddamist forces, killed or wounded a number of their servicemen, and stopped the enemy fire.

During the past 24 hours, all the air raids attempted by the Ba'thist mercenaries on our country's western and southern border regions were neutralized by the selfless heroes of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA: 34 IRAQIS KILLED, 6 TANKS DESTROYED

GF031743 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan 3, IRNA -- Thirty-four Iraqis were killed and 12 others wounded as the enemy positions in the Iraqi regions of Hargineh, Bani Banuk, Panjwin, Garmuk, Toveyleh, and (Helalabad) were barraged by the Iranian troops over the preceding 24 hours.

In these operations six enemy tanks were smashed. Also the Islamic forces killed 22 aggressor troops during the battle operations between the two sides in the western fronts over the afore-mentioned time.

In fire exchanges in the western fronts of Nowsud, Qasr-e Shirin, Chogha-Hammam and Sumar, one munitions loaded vehicle, two other vehicles and several trenches were destroyed during the same time.

IRAQI PATROL ROUTED IN ILAM PROVINCE

GF031748 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Ahvaz, Jan 3, IRNA -- An Iraqi patrol group attempting to penetrate the Islamic forces' positions, west of the Sharhani outpost of Iraq in Moharram theatre located west of the 'Eyn-e Khosh region of Ilam Province, were routed Sunday night. These aggressors were immediately forced to flee leaving behind a number killed.

Meanwhile, artillery fire exchanges continued in Ramadan theatre and other battle fronts of Moharram theatre with the Iranians holding the upper hand over the past 24 hours.

In these operations, at least 10 Iraqis were kill[illegible]r wounded and one loader and some bunkers were destroyed in the region east of Al-b[illegible]

JERUSALEM RESERVE FORCE BEGINS ENLISTMENT

GF031835 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Jerusalem reserve force has begun enlistment. Interested persons may register in the Jerusalem reserve force by reporting to the infantry, artillery, or airborne division No 55 in Shiraz. Those who already have registered are requested to report at 0800 on Saturday, 8 January, along with their cards showing completion of military service, to the recruitment centers.

REPORTAGE ON PRC ECONOMIC DELEGATION'S VISIT

GF310730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Text] A PRC Government economic and trade delegation led by Jia Shi, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, arrived in Tehran and was welcomed by the Commerce Ministry's deputy minister of foreign trade.

The deputy minister of foreign trade said the aim of the delegation's visit is the expansion of economic trade between the two countries. He expressed hope for mutual cooperation in agriculture and small industries.

Jia Shi, PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, expressed his happiness at visiting Iran: This is a suitable opportunity for me to become acquainted with your country. He added: During this visit, we hope that after meeting the Iranian authorities to assess the scope for economic cooperation, a list for the exchange of commodities required by the two countries also will be prepared. He also expressed the hope that these discussions will play a constructive role in the expansion of relations between the two countries.

According to this report, the above-mentioned delegation is accompanied by the director of foreign economic relations and trade and trade and banking deputy directors.

Trade Expansion Sought

LD012130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] The PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, who is visiting our country at the head of a delegation, met and conferred this afternoon with Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman.

Explaining the stands of the revolution and those of the Islamic Republic with regard to establishing and expanding trade ties with other countries, the commerce minister expressed the hope that the current visit would result in the expansion of bilateral trade.

The PRC foreign economic relations and trade vice minister, replying to these remarks, expressed his pleasure over the progress of the talks and the desire to expand bilateral trade in the future. He added that the expansion of trade and economic ties would be beneficial to both countries' peoples.

According to our correspondent, during the meeting, it was decided that both countries' experts would hold the necessary talks aimed at removing certain difficulties concerning the delivery time and quality of exchanged goods. Moreover, our country's commerce minister invited the PRC's foreign economic relations and trade minister to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran. In return, Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman was invited to visit the PRC.

The PRC economic delegation this morning met with Iranian economic officials. During this meeting, two groups, trade and economic cooperation, were formed to carry out specialized negotiations between experts.

Agriculture Discussed

LD031436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the PRC vice minister of foreign trade, who is visiting Iran at the head of a delegation, met and conferred at noon today with [name indistinct], deputy minister of agriculture and rural development.

During this meeting, the PRC vice minister of foreign trade briefed the Iranian official on his country's agricultural situation and expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries.

The deputy minister of agriculture and rural development replied: Agriculture is the axis for economic expansion in our country and the government is giving a special priority to the rural regions. He added: In our agricultural planning, attention has been given to a number of principles such as [word indistinct] protection of forests and pastures, increased performance in [word indistinct] unit and fisheries and there are grounds for cooperation in the proposed agricultural planning.

The meeting ended with the expression of hope for the expansion of bilateral ties in agriculture.

Trade Memorandum Signed

LD041352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the visit by the high-ranking PRC economic delegation to Iran has ended. It left Tehran this morning.

At the conclusion of this trip, a memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation and also a trade memorandum were signed at Mehrabad Airport. According to this memorandum, both sides announced their readiness to increase trade exchange and to expand economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The trade target for next year was set at 42 billion rials. With regard to industrial cooperation, both sides will cooperate in exchanging technological know-how needed for manufacturing non-inflammable fibers and material, for small industries, glass and ceramics, copper and for recycling paper.

In agriculture, both sides will cooperate in fisheries, in the preservation of the environment and in the manufacture of small agricultural machinery. They will exchange delegations of experts in each field. The two countries also will review possibility for cooperation in metallurgy and mining.

According to the trade memorandum signed by both countries, the barter agreement for next year has been compiled. The list of goods to be bartered has been prepared. According to this list, the volume of goods to be bartered during next year is set at $300 million; 50 percent of Iran's export will be nonpetroleum goods like mineral ores. Of light and heavy industrial products, fiberglass, dried fruit, leather, and fur will account for 50 percent of Iran's export. Iran's imports from the PRC during the same period will include chemicals, tools, paper manufacturing material, metal goods, light industry products, electrical goods, chemical and petrochemical goods, and textiles.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR NICARAGUA

LD011300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that its political director for Europe and America this morning left for Nicaragua at the head of a delegation. The purpose of the trip is to create coordination and to prepare the way for a future trip by the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in the non-aligned foreign ministers' conference. In view of the common stand of the two countries vis-a-vis international issues and the anti-imperialist struggle, the political director of the Foreign Affairs Ministry will hold talks with Nicaraguan authorities during this visit. Necessary steps also will be taken to prepare the ground for opening an embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Managua.

KHAMENE'I DELIVERS FRIDAY SERMON ON UNITY

GF311328 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Dec 82

[Friday Arabic sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University -- live]

[Excerpts] Peace be upon brothers and sisters from our Muslim nation everywhere. We now are experiencing Unity Week, the week that begins with the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad according to Sunni tradition and ends with this auspicious anniversary according to Shi'ite tradition.

He who does not believe in the need for the unity of the Muslim nation does not believe in Islam. The resistance of international oppression -- the infidel political, military, and economic force that dominates our Muslim world -- requires our Muslim nation to be firm in its determination, unshakable in its faith, and fully and solidly united.

I address this talk on unity to those who believe in the need to wage a decisive battle against international oppression. We have nothing to say to that rabid clique that is striving to forge a unity with the front of infidelity instead of forging a unity with Muslims and that is opposing all Islamic regimes and all Islamic calls that conflict with its desires.

After the Islamic revolution achieved its great victory in Iran with God's support, the forces of international oppression, led by the tyrannical and shameless U.S. regime, began to draw up plans to oppose the spread of the call of Islam in the region. These plans included the formation of an artificial unity among the reactionary countries to form a front hostile to the incipient Islamic entity in Iran. All zealous Muslims are shocked when they see these so-called Muslim states embark on unity only when such unity is intended to form a front to strike at a regime that stems from Islam and the Islamic revolution.

The sons of the Muslim nation in Iran, of course, do not fear the grouping of these countries. This nation has turned to God and says to this suspect grouping what the Almighty said in early days of Islam as the Koran says: "When the believers saw the confederates, they said, 'This is what God and His messenger promised us, and God and His messenger have spoken truly.' And it only increased their faith and obedience." Islam has turned the Iranian people into a nation like that of which the Koran says: "Those to whom the people said, 'The people have gathered against you, therefore fear them,' but it increased their faith, and they said, 'God is sufficient for us; He is an excellent guardian.' So they returned with blessing and bounty from God, unharmed; They sought to please God, and God has great bounty. It is satan who frightens his friends; do not fear them, but fear me if you are believers."

Unity that is founded on personal ambitions and objectives, unity that disregards the interests and sentiments of people and does not seek the satisfaction of Almighty God is like that grouping which the Koran referred to as: "Or do they say, 'we are a congregation that shall be succored?' Certainly the host shall be routed and will flee."

The leaders of the reactionary regimes in the area hold fast to contradictions in the face of the rising Islamic current. They are making efforts to form an artificial unity while at the same time they spare no effort in sowing all forms of discord among the citizens of their countries and the members of the Muslim nation. The Muslim world today is witnessing well-studied plots to provoke differences between Sunnis and Shi'ites. We have new information about the lines of the plot and its pockets. The Muslim world also is witnessing plots to divide the ulema and educated groups and graduates, and to separate the intelligensia and the university graduates from the masses of the nation, and to create a spirit of aversion between the young generation and their elders. They are all vile plots planned by the oppressors and the covetous and are being implemented by the leaders subject to U.S. control in our region.

The instigation of chauvinist and racist feelings is among the plots that aim to combat Islam and split the Muslim peoples. The feelings of love of compatriots and of the homeland can be channeled toward the strengthening of the ties of love and cooperation and toward the unleashing of citizens' creative energies. However, the plotters undermined these sentiments and used them as a weapon to divide Muslim peoples. After the Islamic revolution's victory, the imperialists escalated their attempts to instigate Arab chauvinism and nationalism so as to polarize the nation's sentiments in Iran and push them toward Iranian nationalism. However, the attempt failed miserably in the face of the rise of the spirit of Islam in Iran. There are no prejudices among our people toward other Muslim peoples. Language no longer constitutes a psychological barrier between our Muslim people and other Muslim peoples. Citizens of our great Muslim nation in general, and Arabic speakers in particular, you must confront this plot with firmness and awareness.

All the slogans that seek to weaken the ties of unity among Muslims are diabolical. All children of the nation, the young and the old, the intellectuals and the clergy, Shi'ites and Sunnis, the educated and the illiterate, today bear the responsibility of rallying round the banner of Islam to face the increasing danger that threatens our nation's existence more than any other time in the past. This threat is represented by the domination of the great powers, led by the United States, over all the nation's resources.

This appeal also is addressed to governments in our Muslim world. These governments bear the responsibilities of bringing about rapprochement among themselves and of getting closer to their peoples to carry out the task of defending their countries in the face of the U.S. and Soviet threats. With its moral, material, and demographic resources, our Muslim world can play a decisive role on the international scene.

O men and women of our nation everywhere. O guests of the Islamic Republic. [a few seconds break in transmission] strongly emphasize in this regard. First, international arrogance aims to implement at any cost the plot to creat sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shi'ites. We must mobilize all our capabilites to confront this plot. It is slanderous to describe the revolution in Iran as a sectarian revolution. Our revolution is the revolution of all Muslims, including Sunnis and Shi'ites. Do not give U.S. arrogance the opportunity to divide Sunnis and Shi'ites and to penetrate through the gap created by such a division to implement its objective of separating the nation from its revolution which has surged from Iran.

We have ended sectarian differences in our country. Sunni brothers today rally behind the Islamic revolution as much as the Shi'ite brothers. All counterrevolutionary plots that aim to exploit this matter have failed abysmally, thank God. All Muslims must take this path.

Second, the agent regime of Iraq greatly has harmed the Muslim nation's unity by its aggression against the Islamic Republic. That regime has thrown the Iraqi forces into an unjust war against the Islamic entity. What should have happened is that the Iraqi and Iranian forces should have joined together to confront their common enemy, the enemy of Islam.

This treacherous and anti-Islamic attack, supported by the United States and the area's reactionary regimes, nowadays is accompanied by a vile plan represented by a call for peace -- a false and deceptive call that aims to divert the attention of world public opinion from the real issue of the war: to identify the aggressor and to punish him. In this war, the Muslim Iranian people have suffered great moral losses. However, the losses will be much greater if this unjustly treated people should relinquish their just rights, because such a concession would be an abandonment of the values they rose to achieve and would encourage aggression and the aggressors and lead to the emergence of a new Saddam in the region every day.

Our people know that the plot of the calls for peace is a continuation of the plot of the imposed war and knows that the aggressor Iraqi regime is seeking to draw us into talks in the name of reconciliation and peace, so that the regime's aggression will have an official character and become a fait accompli, just like what Israel now is doing in Lebanon and what it did at Camp David in the past. Therefore, our people reject and condemn such appeals and call on the Muslim nation not to be deceived by them.

Brothers and sisters, dear guests of Unity Week, our revolution is relentlessly pursuing the path of rejecting subservience to East or West in political, military, and economic spheres. All the agents' provocative actions will not succeed in diverting us from our struggle against the archsatan, the United States. We follow the path of the last of the prophets, Muhammad, may God's peace be upon him and his scion.

MONTAZERI: U.S., USSR NOT SYMPATHETIC TO ISLAM

LD011100 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Text] Qom, Jan 1, IRNA -- Prominent religious scholar Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said here Friday that neither the Soviet Union nor the United States were sympathising with the Muslims and Islam and their only objective was to swallow the oppressed for which they had been united. [sentence as received]

In a meeting with a group of students of theology from West Azarbayjan and Kurdestan Provinces, Ayatollah Montazeri warned them not to be deceived by leaders of some Arab reactionary states as well as the leftist groups as they were subservient to either East or West. He called on the students to further their knowledge since the country was in need of Islamic sciences and culture.

GASOLINE RATIONING ENDS; HIGH RESERVES CITED

LD041152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Excerpt] According to a government decision, from midnight tonight, the sale of gasoline will be unrestricted throughout the country and there will be no need to present coupons to gasoline stations.

According to our correspondent, the legal and parliamentary under secretary at the Oil Ministry said: The reason for rationing in the past was to ensure the gasoline supply requirement of public transport vehicles. Thanks to the efforts of the committed oil industry workers, of all organizations in the country, and of the oil industry, the refining capability of the country's existing refineries has now been raised by 20 percent relative to their nominal capacity. The Oil Ministry's gasoline reserves have now reached their highest level in 10 years. Therefore, there is no longer a need for rationing, beginning midnight tonight. All gasoline stations are to consider this report as an official circular and to sell gasoline without coupons. He added: the price of regular gasoline will remain at 30 rials per liter and that of super petrol at 40 rials. Prices will remain the same for taxis and commercial vans that were using subsidized fuel.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL ORDERS RETURN OF PROPERTY

GF301620 Zahedan Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] In connection with the important decree of the imam of the nation, the provincial Islamic revolution prosecutor has issued this order:

In His exalted name. All provincial law enforcement agencies, Gendarmerie, police, and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps hereby are ordered to inform their headquarters and all posts to return any property confiscated from an accused, whose file is under investigation of this office, to this office within 5 days together with a relevant report and complete details on ownership. Noncompliance will result in prosecution.

528 PEOPLE 'CONVICTED BY COURTS' RELEASED

LD040414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that on the occasion of the auspicious birthday of his eminence, the seal of prophets -- peace be upon him and his virtuous family -- and the auspicious birthday of the sixth imam, His Eminence Imam Ja'afar Sadeq -- peace be upon him -- 528 people convicted by the revolution and Justice Ministry courts were released (?from prison) on orders of the great leader of the Islamic revolution. Of these, 441 had been convicted by the revolution courts and 87 were prisoners who had been convicted by the Justice Ministry courts.

NVOI URGES PURGE OF SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

TA240609 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 23 December carries a commentary entitled: "The Imam of the Nation Condemns Spying and Informing." It says: Since the outset of the revolution's victory and until now, the true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the imam's and the revolution's genuine line, while demanding the establishment of the rule of law in the country, repeatedly have recommended to the Islamic leadership the need to form a court of national security in order to foil the plots of the opponents and foes of the revolution, to safeguard the lives of the committed leaders and government figures of the Islamic Republic, and to safeguard the country's security. It is no longer a secret that SAVAKists, monarchists, hojjatis, and other foes of the revolution have succeeded in infiltrating government organizations, even revolutionary institutions.

It is also obvious that these elements have influence in the security organization of the Islamic Republic. They caused the explosions that killed Ayatollah Beheshti, and in the buildings of the Prime Ministry and prosecutor general of the revolution.

At present, the most important and primary duty of the Islamic leadership is the immediate purge of the country's military and security organizations of the presence of the hojjatis, who are agents of the United States, and of other elements and mercenaries of the great satan and the dregs of the former regime. This is a revolutionary necessity which, if not acted upon decisively and in a revolutionary manner, could inflict so much damage on the revolution and its gains that later on its redress would be impossible.

The encouragement of spying and informing are also among the unpleasant instances, the continuation of which is below the dignity of the Islamic leadership. It is not without reason that the imam of the nation has said that spying is contrary to Islam. Maintaining the security of individuals is one of the indispensable duties of the government and the carrying out of this duty is possible only by forming a completely national, humane, and Islamic security apparatus and organizations consisting of individuals believing in the revolution and the imam's popular and anti-imperialist aims, and devoid of any sort of superficiality, one-dimensionalism, and blind fanaticism.